

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (Canceled).

11. (New) A skin evaluating method of analyzing a frequency of an input skin image and determining a condition of the skin based on a frequency feature of the skin image obtained by the frequency analysis.

12. (New) The skin evaluating method according to claim 11, wherein a fundamental frequency of the skin image is extracted as the frequency feature by the frequency analysis, and when the fundamental frequency exceeds a predetermined threshold, the condition of the skin is determined as satisfactory.

13. (New) The skin evaluating method according to claim 12, wherein the frequency analysis of the skin image is performed in a direction X and a direction Y, and the fundamental frequencies of the skin image in the direction X and the direction Y are extracted, a ratio of the fundamental frequency in the direction X to the fundamental frequency in the direction Y is calculated, and when the ratio is within a range of a predetermined threshold, the condition of the skin is determined as satisfactory.

14. (New) The skin evaluating method according to claim 13, wherein second-order linear predictive analysis is used as the frequency analysis.

15. (New) The skin evaluating method according to claim 12, wherein second-order linear predictive analysis is used as the frequency analysis.

16. (New) The skin evaluating method according to claim 11, wherein the frequency analysis of the skin image is performed in a direction X and a direction Y, and the fundamental frequencies of the skin image in the direction X and the direction Y are extracted, a ratio of the fundamental frequency in the direction X to the fundamental

frequency in the direction Y is calculated, and when the ratio is within a range of a predetermined threshold, the condition of the skin is determined as satisfactory.

17. (New) The skin evaluating method according to claim 16, wherein second-order linear predictive analysis is used as the frequency analysis.

18. (New) The skin evaluating method according to claim 11, wherein second-order linear predictive analysis is used as the frequency analysis.

19. (New) The skin evaluating method according to claim 11, wherein the skin image is input by a fingerprint sensor.

20. (New) A skin evaluating device comprising:

image input means for inputting a skin image;

frequency analyzing means for analyzing a frequency of the skin image input by the image input means;

feature extracting means for extracting a frequency feature of the skin image obtained by a frequency analysis by the frequency analyzing means; and

determining means for determining a condition of the skin based on the frequency feature extracted by the feature extracting means.

21. (New) The skin evaluating device according to claim 20, wherein

the feature extracting means extracts a fundamental frequency of the skin image as the frequency feature,

when the fundamental frequency exceeds a predetermined threshold, the determining means determines that the condition of the skin is satisfactory.

22. (New) The skin evaluating device according to claim 21, wherein

the frequency analyzing means analyzes the frequencies of the skin image in a direction X and a direction Y,

the feature extracting means extracts the fundamental frequencies in the direction X and the direction Y of the skin image; and further comprising frequency ratio calculating means for calculating a ratio of the fundamental frequency in the direction X to the fundamental frequency in the direction Y extracted by the feature extracting means; and

wherein the determining means determines that the condition of the skin is satisfactory when the ratio calculated by the frequency ratio calculating means is within a range of the predetermined threshold.

23. (New) The skin evaluating device according to claim 22, wherein the frequency analyzing means uses second-order linear predictive analysis.

24. (New) The skin evaluating device according to claim 21, wherein the frequency analyzing means uses second-order linear predictive analysis.

25. (New) The skin evaluating device according to claim 20, wherein
the frequency analyzing means analyzes the frequencies of the skin image in a direction X and a direction Y,

the feature extracting means extracts the fundamental frequencies in the direction X and the direction Y of the skin image; and further comprising frequency ratio calculating means for calculating a ratio of the fundamental frequency in the direction X to the fundamental frequency in the direction Y extracted by the feature extracting means; and

wherein the determining means determines that the condition of the skin is satisfactory when the ratio calculated by the frequency ratio calculating means is within a range of the predetermined threshold.

26. (New) The skin evaluating device according to claim 25, wherein the frequency analyzing means uses second-order linear predictive analysis.

27. (New) The skin evaluating device according to claim 20, wherein the frequency analyzing means uses second-order linear predictive analysis.

28. (New) The skin evaluating device according to claim 20, wherein the image input means is a fingerprint sensor.